

The Committee on Disarmament, the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva, will resume its 1982 session early next month. Its new Working Group on a Comprehensive Test Ban will begin its work on verification and compliance. Its Working Group on Chemical Weapons will build upon previous progress. Another subject to be taken up is that of arms control and outer space. This question is one of special interest to Canada. In his speech to UNSSOD II the Prime Minister drew attention to the serious gaps in the present international agreements and proposed that an early start be made on a treaty to prohibit the development, testing and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space.

With such an arms control and disarmament agenda - START, INF, MBFR, CD - there are grounds for hope, especially compared to the situation as recently as a year ago when you gathered in Banff.

I would now like to suggest areas in which the Pugwash Movement might expand its efforts in the years ahead. It should come as no surprise that they are areas of traditional importance to Canada.

One of the great strengths of the Pugwash Movement has been its recognition that the promotion of peace and human survival necessarily involves the consideration of all weapons systems. I am thinking in particular of the excellent work over the years in the Pugwash Chemical Weapons Seminars. I consider these meetings to be among the major achievements of the first twenty-five years of the Movement. Ever since the first World War, a ban on chemical weapons has been high on any list of Canadian priorities in arms control and disarmament. In the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, the same expert who has attended Pugwash Chemical Weapons Seminars has participated with experts from other countries in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons established in 1980. One of the initiatives I announced last week is that henceforth Canadian experts will participate in the Working Group for longer periods as and when warranted. We are convinced that the international negotiating machinery that is in place must be used to achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. Adequate verification provisions will be among the most important parts of such a treaty. Canada has noted with interest the positive approach to verification procedures in Foreign Minister Gromyko's remarks at UNSSOD II. We would be encouraged if this attitude were reflected in the ongoing negotiations in the CD.